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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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## Reports

- [Item#1](#)

The Debt Limit: History and Recent Increases. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. D. Andrew Austin and Mindy R. Levit. May 2, 2011.

Total debt of the federal government can increase in two ways. First, debt increases when the government sells debt to the public to finance budget deficits and acquire the financial resources needed to meet its obligations. This increases debt held by the public. Second, debt increases when the federal government issues debt to certain government accounts, such as the Social Security, Medicare, and Transportation trust funds, in exchange for their reported surpluses. This increases debt held by government accounts. The sum of debt held by the public and debt held by government accounts is the total federal debt. Surpluses reduce debt held by the public, while deficits raise it. Total federal debt outstanding was \$14,288 billion on April 29, 2011, of which \$14,236 billion was subject to the debt limit.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL31967.pdf> [PDF format, 29 pages].

#### Item#2

Gasoline Prices. Council on Foreign Relations. Toni Johnson. May 16, 2011.

With the Middle East unrest ongoing and the global economy recovering, gasoline prices are rising considerably. But policies to ease U.S. consumer impact take time and policymakers are divided over the course of action.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://www.cfr.org/energy/gasoline-prices/p10596> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#3

Global Development Horizons 2011 - Multipolarity: The New Global Economy. The World Bank. Mansoor Dailami. May 17, 2011.

By 2025, six major emerging economies, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, South Korea, and Russia, will account for more than half of all global growth and the international monetary system will no longer be dominated by a single currency. As economic power shifts, these successful economies will help drive growth in lower income countries through cross-border commercial and financial transactions.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGDH/Resources/GDH-AdvanceEd-CompleteBook.pdf> [PDF format, 18 pages].

#### Item#4

Is College Worth It?: College Presidents, Public Assess Value, Quality and Mission of Higher Education. Pew Social & Demographic Trends. May 15, 2011.

College costs are rising, student debt is mounting, and the public is skeptical about the value of a college degree, according to the Pew Research Center surveys. Meantime, only 19% of college presidents say the U.S. system is the best in the world. But more than eight-in-ten college graduates say college was a good investment for them personally.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://pewsocialtrends.org/files/2011/05/Is-College-Worth-It.pdf> [PDF format, 159 pages].

#### Item#5

The Military Balance in Asia, 1990-2011. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Anthony H. Cordesman. May 16, 2011.

Anthony Cordesman gives an analysis of the military balance in Asia. The report traces developments in the balance since 1990, and provides a detailed comparison of military forces as of 2011.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

[http://csis.org/files/publication/110516\\_South\\_Asia-AsiaMilitaryBalance2011.pdf](http://csis.org/files/publication/110516_South_Asia-AsiaMilitaryBalance2011.pdf) [PDF format, 108 pages].

#### Item#6

Most Say Homosexuality Should Be Accepted By Society. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. May 13, 2011.

While the public is divided over gay marriage, 58% say that homosexuality should be accepted, rather than discouraged, by society. But there are wide political and religious differences in opinions on this measure.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1994/poll-support-for-acceptance-of-homosexuality-gay-parenting-marriage> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#7

Peace Corps: 50 Years of Promoting Friendship and Peace. International Information Program, U.S. Department of State. May 2011.

During the 1960 presidential campaign, candidate John F. Kennedy asked a group of U.S. college students, "How many of you who are going to be doctors are willing to spend your days in Ghana? Technicians or engineers, how many of you are willing to work in the Foreign Service and spend your lives traveling around the world?" Within months of taking office in 1961, Kennedy signed an executive order establishing the Peace Corps. Since then, more than 200,000 Americans have responded to Kennedy's challenge by serving as Peace Corps volunteers, helping people in 139 countries to raise fish and farm animals, learn English, and build basic water systems. In the process of helping others, these Americans have learned about the world and brought their enhanced understanding of other countries and cultures back to the U.S. The eJournal marks the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps with narratives written by past volunteers and we glimpse the future of the Peace Corps.

[http://photos.state.gov/libraries/amgov/133183/publications/Peace%20Corps\\_50\\_anniversary\\_EJ.pdf](http://photos.state.gov/libraries/amgov/133183/publications/Peace%20Corps_50_anniversary_EJ.pdf) [PDF format, 13 pages].

#### Item#8

Post-bin Laden: Pakistan's Hour of Choice. YaleGlobal. Sadanand Dhume. May 17, 2011.

The Pakistani military at times has condoned extremism, specifically to needle India or squeeze U.S. military aid. But terrorism is not a precision tool. Pakistan's reputation as a trustworthy partner could be at an all-time low after the U.S. discovered and killed bin Laden hiding near a Pakistani military academy. The international community is wary of Pakistan's many links to global terrorism. Pakistanis are enraged about their government's failure to find the terrorist chief or to defend the country's sovereignty. Dhume argues that Pakistan must reassess strategies, reining in the terrorists or organizations that pursue a terrorist agenda. Nuclear-armed Pakistan must bring the military spy agency ISI under civilian control, Dhume contends, putting an end to the double game of running with the hare and hunting with the hounds. Otherwise, Pakistan risks being a failed state, falling victim to the terrorists it helped create.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/post-bin-laden-pakistans-hour-choice> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#9

State of Cyberethics, Cybersafety and Cybersecurity Curriculum in the U.S. Survey. National Cyber Security Alliance and Microsoft. May 2011.

The 2011 State of K-12 Cyberethics, Cybersafety and Cybersecurity Curriculum in the United States is a survey presented by the National Cyber Security Alliance and Microsoft. Building on the NCSA's previous K-12 studies from 2008 and 2010, the survey further explores the perceptions and practices of U.S. teachers, school administrators and technology coordinators in regards to cyberethics, cybersafety and cybersecurity education. It finds that young people still are not receiving adequate training and that teachers are ill-prepared to teach the subjects due, in large part, to lack of professional development.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

[http://www.staysafeonline.org/sites/default/files/resource\\_documents/2011%20National%20K-12%20Study%20Final\\_0.pdf](http://www.staysafeonline.org/sites/default/files/resource_documents/2011%20National%20K-12%20Study%20Final_0.pdf) [PDF format, 16 pages].

#### Item#10

Visa Waiver Program: DHS Has Implemented the Electronic System for Travel Authorization, but Further Steps Needed to Address Potential Program Risks. U.S. Government Accountability Office. Web posted May 17, 2011.

The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) allows eligible nationals from 36 member countries to travel to the U.S. for tourism or business for 90 days or less without a visa. In 2007, Congress required the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to implement an automated electronic travel authorization system to determine, prior to travel, applicants' eligibility to travel to the U.S. under the VWP. Congress also required all VWP member countries to enter into an agreement with the U.S. to share information on whether citizens and nationals of that country traveling to the U.S. represent a security threat. GAO evaluates (1) DHS's implementation of an electronic system for travel authorization; (2) U.S. agencies' progress in negotiating information-sharing agreements; and (3) DHS's timeliness in issuing biennial reports. DHS has implemented the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) and has taken steps to minimize the burden associated with the new program requirement. However, DHS

has not fully evaluated security risks related to the small percentage of VWP travelers without verified ESTA approval.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11335.pdf> [PDF format, 44 pages].

#### Item#11

When Private Lives Become Public. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Andrew Kohut. May 16, 2011.

Generally, the issues matter most in voters' judgments about presidential candidates, but personality, character and values are not far behind. This is especially the case in the primaries where differences between candidates of the same party tend to be modest. Fully 62% of Republicans said they would be less willing to vote for a candidate who had committed adultery.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1995/polls-adultery-not-easily-ignored-president-primary-campaign>  
[HTML format, various paging].